PIED PIPER COMICS™
$1.95
$2.95 Canada
LAWRENCE & LIM'S
#8
EX-MUTANTS™
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Ex-Mutants #8
"If This Be Madness!"

THIS ISSUE'S TRIVIA

This is the final issue published by Pied Piper Comics and was never re-printed. This title will return to Eternity Comics with an all new issue #1.

KING SPYDER
January 4th, 2009

PIED PIPER PIPELINE!

P.O. Box 6969 Grand Rapids, MI 49516

FLASH:

This news is just too good to keep under our hats any longer! Next month marks the dramatic debut of our very first **COLOR MAGS**!

The excitement begins with **POWER FACTOR**, as Creator/scripter **Killer Kevin Juaire** and **Champion Carmine Infantino** bring you super-team action with a dramatic difference! Combine the inking wizardry of **Dashing Doug Haselwood**, and the airbrush genius of **Titanic Tom Vincent**, and you know this book has to be GREAT!

And if different is what you're looking for, look no further than **LUNATIC FRINGE! Sensational Scott Rockwell & Dawdling David Lawrence** have unleashed a script that defies description, and the unique artwork of **Joltin' John Statema & Bouncin' Bill Anderson**, has to be seen to be believed! In fact, we've seen it...and we're still not sure we believe it! And if you think **Lunatic Fringe** is a bit off-beat, wait'll you see **Sensational Scott's MANGLE TANGLE TALES**, a back-up series that defies description! Be sure to mark November on your calendar, frantic ones...we wouldn't want you to miss comic history in the making!

FLASH:

Speaking of history, December marks two other landmark events! First is the triumphant return of **HERO ALLIANCE! Killer Kevin** strikes again, this time teamed with **Rapid Ron Lim & Crushing Keith Williams**, to produce a series of epic proportions...colored by **Mischevious Marcus David!** (And if you think **Mischevious Marcus** is a terrific colorist, you oughta hear his drumming! He's a peerless percussionist turned publicist for none other than **THE INSIDERS!** Keep those hits rollin', guys...and we'll keep listenin'!)

We're also proud to present a brand new color series called **MADE IN AMERICA!** This one's for red-blooded Americans everywhere, as created and written by our own peerless publisher, **Mighty Mark Hamlin** and everlovin' Editor-in-Chief, **Ramblin' Roger McKenzie**, and spotlights the artistry of **Super Scott Rosema & Jumpin' Jack Snider!** (Just wait till you feast your eyes on Liberty, patriotic ones!)

FLASH:

Is it true? Are The Ex-Mutants really dead? You'll learn the shocking truth in **EX-MUTANTS #8, Pied Piper's** FINAL ISSUE, on sale now! You won't want to miss it!

And you won't want to miss **BEAST WARRIORS OF SHAOLIN**, either! This mag just keeps getting better and better, thanks to the incredible talents of **Peerless Peter Guinones, Gallopin' Glen Johnson, & Magic Marty Lasick!** Issue 2 is on sale now...and issue number 3, on sale this December, features the premiere of a brand-new companion series called **AMERICAN NINJA!** It's created and written by **Darling Dennis Duarte**, with pencils by **Audacious Allen Curtis**, and inks by **Bouncin' Bill Anderson**, who bring you martial arts action with a unique difference! No doubt about it, **Beast Warriors** is the surprise hit of '87!

FLASH: We're proud as punch here at **Pied Piper**, and we just gotta brag a little about our brand new line of **MAGIC TIME™** children's books debuting this December! Our very first full-sized graphic novel format book is called **KERRY & THE SCARY THINGS!** It's written by **Renee Witterstaetter**, illustrated by **Keith Wilson**, and answers the age-old question: "What do monsters do best?".

Rugged Ron Courtney proves that, besides being one of the finest colorists in comicdom today, he's also one heck of a writer as well! **Ron** strikes no fewer than three times in our **Tiny Tales™** format with **THE COOKIE PIRATES**, illustrated by **Scott Rosema**, **MOUSE'S CHRISTMAS TREE**, illustrated by **Sonya Obrochta**, and **WHAT DO I KNOW**, a charming verse book illustrated by **Bill Perry**. They're for children of all ages, presented with pardonable pride by **Pied Piper!**

PIED PIPER CHECKLIST

Titanic Titles ON SALE NOW!

BEAST WARRIORS OF SHAOLIN #2
LAWRENCE & LIM'S EX-MUTANTS #8
THE NEW HUMANS #3

STILL AVAILABLE!

BEAST WARRIORS OF SHAOLIN #1
LAWRENCE & LIM'S EX-MUTANTS #6
LAWRENCE & LIM'S EX-MUTANTS #7
THE NEW HUMANS #1
THE NEW HUMANS #2
BEAST WARRIORS GRAPHIC ALBUM
HERO ALLIANCE GRAPHIC ALBUM

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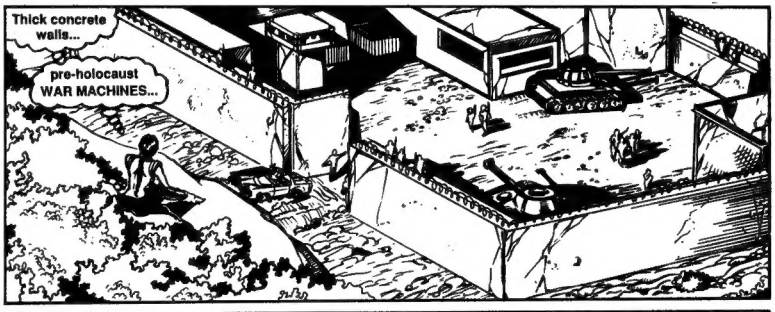

Thick concrete walls...
pre-holocaust WAR MACHINES...

...several DOZEN armed guards...
...and my friends are somewhere in the MIDDLE of it all. I've got to find a way to RESCUE them!

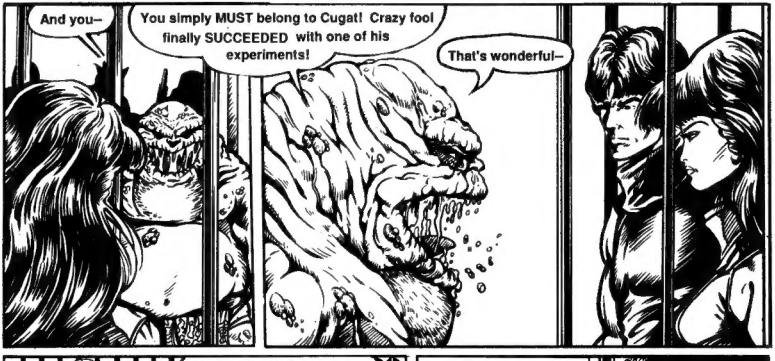
SIGH
This COULD take all day...

IF THIS BE MADNESS!
The EX-MUTANTS™ & WILD KNIGHTS™— Together again for possibly the FINAL TIME!
You've burned down our HOMES--threatened our CHILDREN--captured my FRIENDS! So help me, Frog, once I get out of here--
I'LL KILL YOU!!
Honestly, Zachary...you've no one to blame but yourself. If you'd been more reasonable when I FIRST approached you...
Another PIED PIPER Masterpiece proudly presented by:
DAVID LAWRENCE plot/script pg. 1-5
DAVID CAMPITI plot pg. 6-20
ROGER MCKENZIE & MARK L. HAMLIN plot pg. 21-25/script pg. 6-25
RON LIM pencils pgs. 1-5
JOSEPH PHILLIPS pencils pg. 6-25
JACK SNIDER inks pg. 1-11
JEFF DEE inks pg. 12-25
ROGER MCKENZIE Editor-in-Chief
(And special thanks to Wild Knights consultant DENNIS DUARTE!)

Reasonable?!
You slimy son of a–
GUARDS–HELP!! HE'S–

THWACK!

HEY! They hit Zack!
He ain't gonna like that! They're in TROUBLE, now!


And you–
You simply MUST belong to Cugat! Crazy fool finally SUCCEEDED with one of his experiments!
That's wonderful–

We'll definitely have to pay him a visit. Follow me, we've MUCH planning to do...

Man Ray–Is Zack okay? What's going on here?

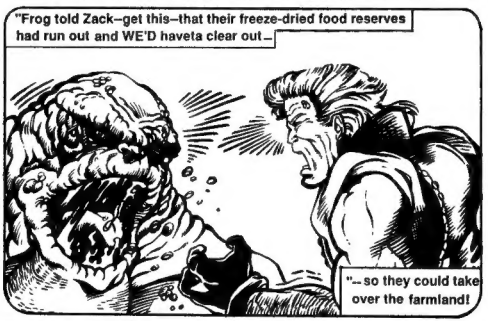
Don't worry, Lorelei. Ol' hardhead'll be fine. I've seen 'im take TOUGHER shots and walk away.
But, what's going on...well ... We been havin' a hard time figuring THAT out ourselves.

"Frog and his crew are descendants of a pack of SURVIVALISTS who used to play in the woods around here.

"And wouldn't ya KNOW it, one day after thirty years of fire drills, someone was finally kind enough to PROVE 'em right!
"They survived--

"--and lived nearby for years. There's always been lotsa frayed nerves, but never any REAL trouble.

"Couple'a weeks ago, FROG came on waltzin' up to the house.


"Frog told Zack--get this--that their freeze-dried food reserves had run out and WE'D haveta clear out--
"-- so they could take over the farmland!

"Well, things got kinda HEATED. "We had to, uh, ASK 'em to leave.
"They made THREATS, but we didn't give it a thought at the time.
"Now they've destroyed everything. It's MADNESS...
"...and I keep asking myself HOW did we let it happen...?"

DOC CUGAT'S JOURNAL–
I sit alone in the darkness and wonder if the madness will ever end.
I had such high hopes in the beginning... that my experiments could really make a difference...
But there's so much I don't understand.
So much that has gone wrong...
Emmanuel...

Don't BOTHER me, Norma Jean. Please.
Not now.
I have VITALLY important work to complete if I'm to save the world!
Save the--?

Oh, God. LISTEN to yourself, Emmanuel...
You're clutching at GENETIC straws...
...just like you did when you MANUFACTURED me!

Who am I, Emmanuel?
WHAT am I?

A DREAM, Norma Jean.
A young boy's dream...

Everything he ever wanted...
"It was...DIFFERENT, back then...and I was just a normal kid..."
"...with two eyes...
"...and a nose..."
Who wants popcorn?
Me...I'm the CORNIEST pop around.
How was THAT, Manny? Pretty good imitation, huh?
Close...
...but NO cigar!
Puck!
"My folks...
"...were the GREATEST!"

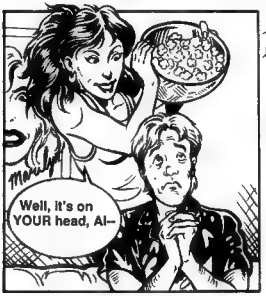
"Mom was a research scientist. Cryogenics.
"Dad was into genetics.
Dad's son Marx?

"They MET one rainy Sunday afternoon...

"...at a Marx Brothers film fest.

"They always said I was their best work, though.
"Guess I'm LUCKY they didn't name me Harpo...

SLAPSTICK, huh?
You WANT slapstick?


Well, it's on YOUR head, Al–

–LLLEX!
Just say the SECRET word, and–

HONK!
HONK!

"Oh, God, Norma Jean...
"...why did it EVER have to end?"

"She followed her DREAMS on a silver jet bound for the Johnson Space Center in Houston...

"...and I wondered what SORT of dreams she'd have in suspended animation for six long and lonely months.

"I was PROUD of her...

"...but that didn't make the PAIN of separation, or FEAR of the unknown, any easier..."

KASMASH

I know, Manny.

I MISS her, too.

But her work's IMPORTANT, son. If the hibernation system she helped develop for NASA is successful, it'll open the stars for exploration.

Besides, she WON'T be gone forever.

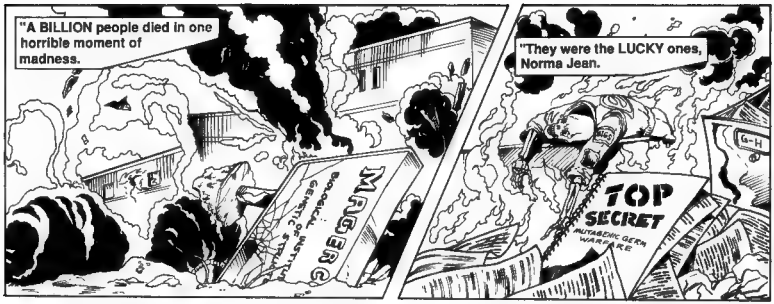
She'll come BACK to us... and we'll be together for a long, long time.

P-PROMISE, Dad?

Cross my heart, kiddo...

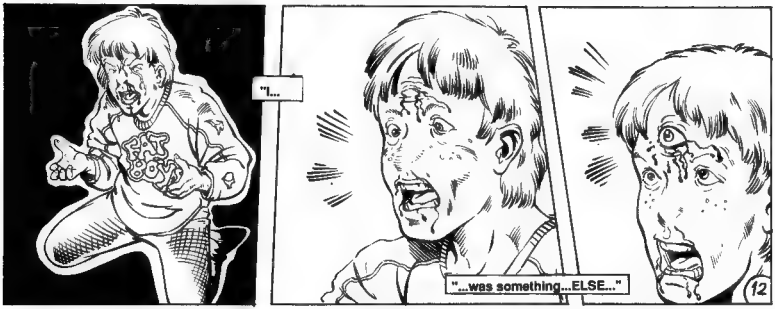
...and HOPE to die.

"But whatever dark dreams Mom may have dreamed, they could not have compared with the nuclear NIGHTMARE that followed.
KAAAH
AAA RH H!
"She SLEPT the world away..."


"A BILLION people died in one horrible moment of madness.
"They were the LUCKY ones, Norma Jean.
TOP SECRET
MUTAGENIC GERM WARFARE

"Survivors inherited an ATOMIC wasteland...
"...and a first-generation mutative PLAGUE that stole whatever humanity we had left.

"Dad dug me from the radioactive rubble...
"...and I'll never forget the FEAR in his voice. He was more dead than alive, but at least he was STILL human.


"I...
"...was something...ELSE..."

Then...the MUTATIONS–

Were NEVER caused by the radiation. At least not directly. Dad figured they were the product of an experimental mutagenic VIRUS unleashed by the holocaust.

GERM warfare, Norma Jean. That would explain the first generation mutations...

and my third eye...

Dad was afraid I MIGHT have suffered brain damage as a result, but–

Emmanuel...

...you're the SMARTEST man in the world.

I like to think so.

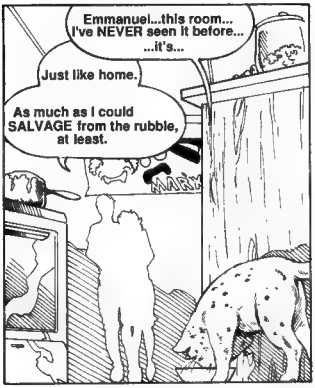
But that DOESN'T mean you have to push yourself to the brink of exhaustion.

At least NOT with work...

Norma Jean!

Don't blame ME, Doctor.

YOU made me what I am!


Emmanuel...this room... I've NEVER seen it before... ...it's...
Just like home.
As much as I could SALVAGE from the rubble, at least.

YOU'RE incredible, Doctor.
And I'M going to slip into something a little more comfortable.

...SIGH...
What's that?

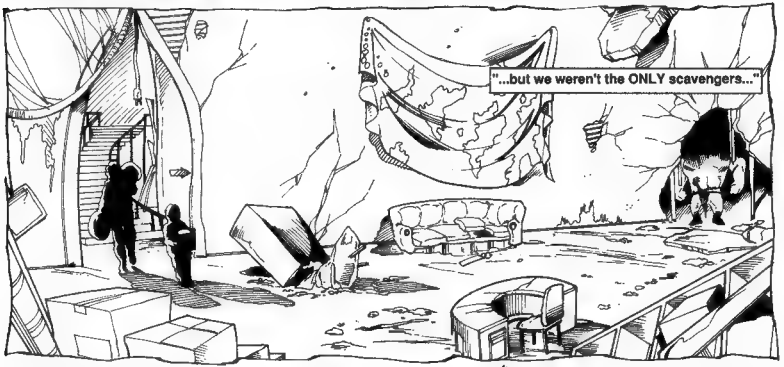
KLIK

AAAAAA!!

Emmanuel...she's...
...she's...
...ME...
Actually, Norma Jean, YOU'RE her.
I DESIGNED you that way.

"It was Dad's dream... our dream...to REBUILD the world, Norma Jean. The way it USED to be.
"The way YOU are, now.

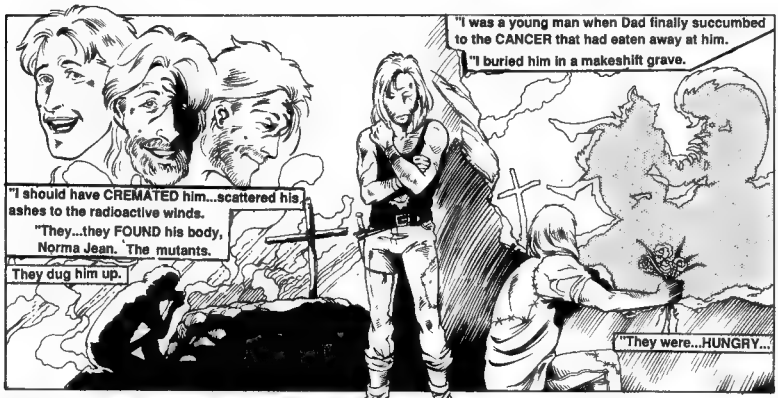
"We managed to SCAVENGE what we needed...

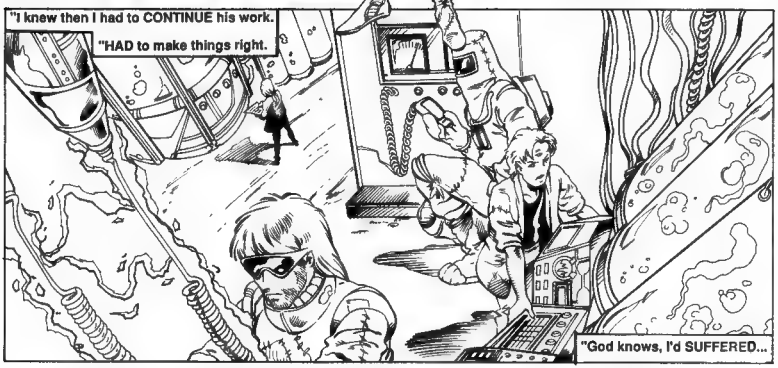

"...but we weren't the ONLY scavengers..."

AARG!

"We had to LEARN to fight for our lives...
GGRR!!
?
SNAP!
BLAM!!
WAMM!

"We learned well.
"We HAD to.
"And we had to learn everything we could about the MUTATION process...
"...if we hoped to SAVE our fellow man...
"...and OURSELVES.
"For nearly ten years...
"...Dad taught me EVERYTHING he knew.
"From then on, I taught him..."


"I was a young man when Dad finally succumbed to the CANCER that had eaten away at him.
"I buried him in a makeshift grave.
"I should have CREMATED him...scattered his ashes to the radioactive winds.
"They...they FOUND his body, Norma Jean. The mutants.
They dug him up.
"They were...HUNGRY...

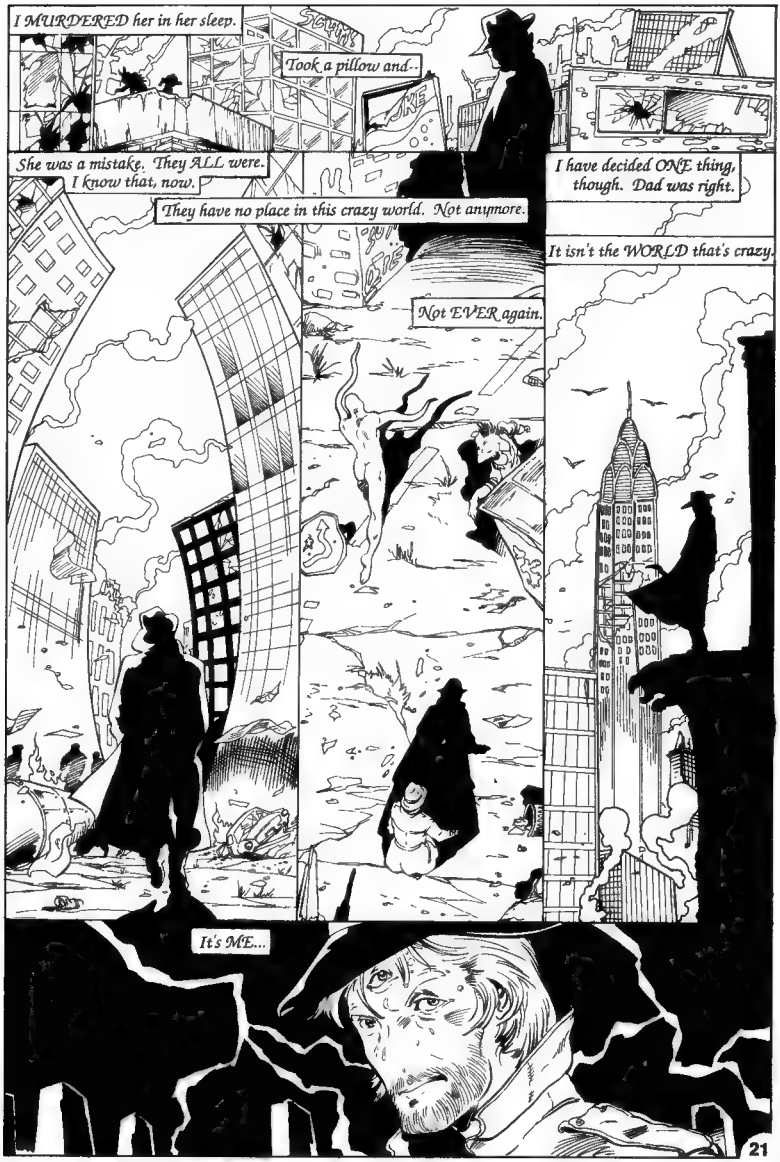

"I knew then I had to CONTINUE his work.
"HAD to make things right.
"God knows, I'd SUFFERED...

It's all here in these old BOOKS, Norma Jean.

Perhaps I'm CRAZY, but you...and the others... you're the stuff that DREAMS are made of.

"I HAD to start over somewhere. Had to TRY to put the pieces of our devestated society back together again, as best I could.
"It would seem, however, that my best was not NEARLY good enough.
"Certainly my earlier experiments in DNA helix construction left...uh...a bit to be desired...
"...but they WERE entertaining for a while. Sort of like the old videos.
"Now I'm beginning to wonder if all of it...ESPECIALLY the Ex-Mutants...wasn't a huge mistake..."

But...what about me?
Am I a mistake, too, Emmanuel?
THIS END UP
UP
BETTY BOOP
You're PERFECT, Norma Jean. A goddess.
Better than I deserve. I was crazy to think you could ever want a...a FREAK like me...
Emmanuel...
...I've ALWAYS loved you...
...always...
DOC CUGAT'S JOURNAL–
Sometimes dreams come true...
...if ONLY for a night...


I MURDERED her in her sleep.
Took a pillow and--
She was a mistake. They ALL were. I know that, now.
They have no place in this crazy world. Not anymore.
I have decided ONE thing, though. Dad was right.
It isn't the WORLD that's crazy.
Not EVER again.
It's ME...

I FOUND what I needed buried in the rubble of New York City, my wayward children.
It took a WEEK to drag it back to my lab and set it in place.
Freeing you from Frog's not-so-gentle clutches was far EASIER, I assure you.
So was GASSING you and bringing you back here... where it all began...
...and where it is SURELY destined to end...

Nothing I can do will change what has happened. I CAN'T make things like they were.

I NEVER should have tried.

Man fell VICTIM to his own greed, hatred, and stupidity. A new order has risen from the radioactive ashes like a mutated phoenix.

For better or worse, it's THEIR world, now. You do not belong here...not as you are.

I had no right to CHANGE you...to make you misfits and outcasts in this brave new world that I neither comprehend nor tolerate.

There is NOTHING for me, here...but I can give YOU a second chance, my children...

Doc...

...you...

...can't...

...be...

...serious!

I'm DEADLY serious. You can start over...far from here.

I have no future...

...just a grim REMINDER of the past.

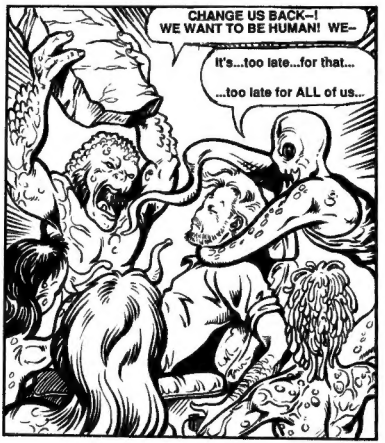
A Russian WARHEAD. I found it in the rubble...

CCCP

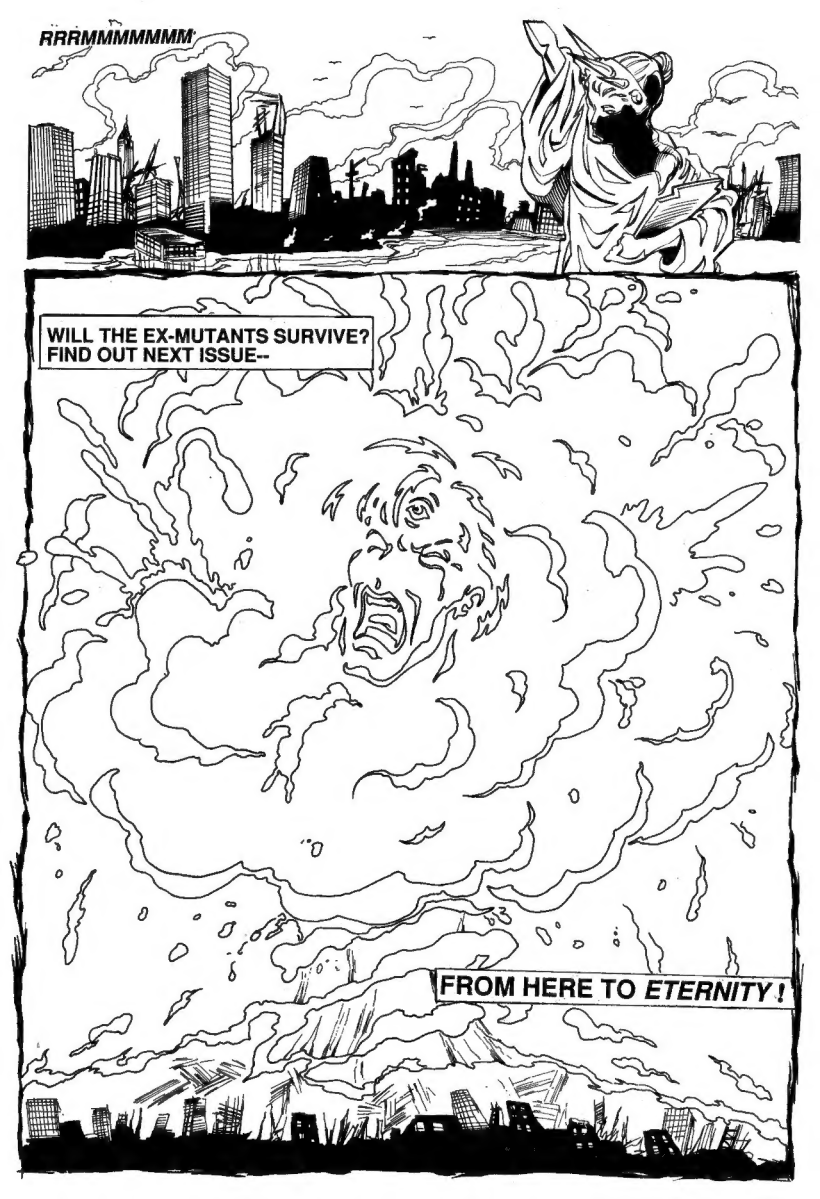
...and I'm ready to END the madness...

...for ALL of us...

NO!


CHANGE US BACK--! WE WANT TO BE HUMAN! WE--
it's...too late...for that...
...too late for ALL of us...

KLIK


RRRMMMMMMM
WILL THE EX-MUTANTS SURVIVE? FIND OUT NEXT ISSUE--
FROM HERE TO *ETERNITY*!

KING SPYDER